

Pam.
China

476

The Children's Home at Amoy, China
"Pity Little-Children Hall"

By Miss M. E. Talmage

憐兒堂



"RESCUED"



WOMAN'S BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, R. C. A.
25 EAST 22D STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

"Pity Little-Children Hall"

DIALOGUE:—VISITOR AND KO-NIU (MISSIONARY)

憐兒堂

Visitor,—What are those three Chinese characters, and why written over that doorway?

Ko-niu,—The characters, "Pity Little-Children Hall." Will you come inside and see the living illustration of their meaning?

Visitor,—What a fine company of children in here! What funny, dear wee tots these are, just able to run around! And those girls just growing into womanhood, what bright, intelligent faces they have! How happy and friendly they all are as they flock around us, each with her greeting of "Peng-an" (Peace!). "Children's Hall" seems appropriate enough but surely not the character. "Pity!"—I have never seen a happier group anywhere.

Ko-niu,—Had you seen these children before they entered you would have felt the meaning of the word; pitiable, indeed, were many of them then! That little bright-eyed girl of twelve at your side, one of the brightest in her class in school, was found when a baby, nearly dead by the roadside one bitterly cold day. Her parents threw her away simply because she was a girl.

That older girl of seventeen standing beside her, when eight years old, was to be sold for a slave ("slave-girl" in China has depths of meaning!). She was redeemed by one who took pity upon her and put her in the Home. A few Sundays ago, she with several of her companions, made public confession of her faith in her Saviour.

This pretty child of nine, when a wee, wee baby, because she was "only a girl," was hawked for sale through the



SWEEPING DAY AT THE HOME

streets, and was bought for one dollar by a friend and brought to the shelter of the Home.

This little girl on your left had no welcome either when she came into the world. Her mother was so angry at the thought that her black-eyed baby was "only a girl," that she was with great difficulty persuaded by a Christian woman not to kill her child until the case could be reported to the Home.

That sweet-faced child of nine had Christian parents, who died from plague, leaving her when a baby to a heathen relative, who soon fell ill and, when dying, arranged to sell her to a heathen neighbor, in order to have

money to pay the funeral expenses. A friend heard of the child and redeemed her.

That little blind child, only a few days ago was left outside the garden wall of the Home. She was then brought in by a Christian, who asked that the Home



"ONLY GIRLS."

receive her and save her from the awful fate of being taken possession of by the beggars. Her body bears marks of cruel treatment. She says that she was not always blind, but that "medicine" was given to her which made her so. One might go on and on in this way, telling of one sad history after another.

ANY child may become a member of the Baby Roll by the payment of one dollar. The child's full name, with date of birth and the name and address of the one who pays the fee, should be sent with the dollar to Secretary of Baby Roll,

MRS. P. A. MACLEAN
864 President Street
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Visitor,—How long has this Home been doing this Christ-like work of saving children?

Ko-niu,—In 1889 six missionaries greatly concerned over the many cases brought to their notice of infanticide and cruelty to children, decided to make the experiment of opening a Children's Home. Kind, interested friends by their prayers and contributions, have greatly helped in making the Home the success that it has been.

Visitor,—As the children grow up they must eventually leave the Home. What of their future?

Ko-niu,—All the children old enough go to the mission school, and the smaller ones are taught to read and write in the Home. Some of the older girls have completed the course in the Boarding School and are now teachers, doing satisfactory work. Some are married, and each of these seems very happy in a home of her own.

One is now the wife of a promising preacher, and on Sundays is very useful in teaching the women who come to the services, and on week-days she has a school of from ten to twenty, which she teaches in the room used as a church on Sunday. Another married a teacher in one of the mission schools. "What prospect for the future" is there for these "Home" children, did you ask? In place of what would have been a life of misery and degradation and idol worship, they in their early years are brought into the fold of Him who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me," and we know the future of "such is the Kingdom of heaven." Many of the older girls have made public profession of their love for their Saviour, and many of the younger ones, we believe, are daily trying to please Him. Now, as we are leaving the Home, look up again at the three characters over the door, and are they not full of meaning? Does not mission work pay a thousandfold?